

adopted in this respect, the main object shall be carried out—whether the national vote of 5,000l. have a portion doled out for this great end, or not five farthings come from it—the Builders' School must and shall be established. We invite, therefore, all those who are anxious to secure its benefits to come forward with promptitude. If the numbers be large, the expense will be less; and in any case we hope it may be arranged so as very little, if at all, to exceed the rate at which the government school is fixed; but much will depend upon numbers and the amount of voluntary aid.

THE CATHEDRAL OF CHARTRES.

It appears probable from some ancient manuscripts, that the Cathedral of Chartres was originally built on the site of an ancient Druidical temple.

St. Savinien and St. Potentien, founders of the metropolitan church of Sens, coming to Chartres, St. Aventin, their disciple, built the first Christian church in that city, about the end of the 3rd century. The faithful suffered great persecution under the Roman dominion; but, in 313, under the emperor Constantine, the inhabitants of Chartres founded, in conjunction with their bishop, a temple to God upon the very spot where the church now stands.

This church was burnt about the year 858 by the Normans, who entered the town under the pretext of receiving baptism there. Rebuilt by Bishop Gislebert, the church again suffered in the war between Thibaud and Richard, duke of Normandy. In 1040, it was again reduced to ashes by lightning, being probably built of wood, as were many churches of the 6th and 7th centuries. The pious Fulbert, who was bishop at this time, sought the assistance of the different sovereigns of Europe for the re-construction of the building, devoting for three years his own income to the same object. A large sum was consequently raised.

We have little idea, at the present time, with what zeal and perseverance Christians then devoted themselves to such enterprises; they frequently undertook severe manual labour in the erection of new churches; and pilgrims even came from Rouen and other places to assist in its execution.

These pilgrimages and labours were performed with the best intentions. The persons who undertook them generally made up their past quarrels, and many a process of law was thus determined. They nominated a chief, who allotted to each his employment; the works were executed in the fine season of the year; wax tapers were placed in the waggons round the building, and hymns and canticles occupied the night. Thus were executed most of those marvellous constructions of the middle ages, which bear in their conception and execution a character of unity and grandeur impressed upon them by the fervent piety of the founders. With such means at command, we may understand how those gigantic monuments, which seem to have required ages for their erection, may have been completed in a few years. But still we may doubt the assertion of the historians, who state that the construction of the Cathedral of Chartres, such as it now exists, occupied only eight years. It is not certainly of earlier date than the 12th century, and it is probably built over the constructions of Fulbert, of which only the vaults and other concealed parts might have remained. According to the testimony of other documents, it was 130 years before the edifice was consecrated.

In 1088, the Princess Maud, widow of William, Duke of Normandy, caused the central building to be covered with lead, for the entry to the nave, the grand portal, and what is now called the old steeple, were not finished till 1145. The other steeple was built of stone up to a certain height only, and was terminated by a pointed wooden spire, covered with lead. This was burnt by lightning in 1506, and the six bells suspended in it were melted. It was consequently determined to re-construct the spire in stone: Louis XII. gave 2,000 livres towards defraying the expense, and indulgences were granted to persons who were willing to co-operate in the work.

Jean Texier, an inhabitant of Chartres, was the architect on this occasion: the work was commenced in 1507 and finished in 1514. The foreman of the works received about six or seven sous a day, and the workmen only five.

This steeple, after having escaped another conflagration in 1674, was blown down in 1691; and was rebuilt in 1692 in the stone of Vernon, by Claude Augé, a sculptor of Lyons, four feet higher than it was before.

The dedication of the cathedral took place on the 17th October, 1260, under the protection of the Holy Virgin: Peter de Mainey, seventy-sixth bishop of Chartres, officiated on the occasion.

Built upon the top of a hill, the cathedral rises majestically over the city; and the extraordinary height of the steeple makes it a most conspicuous object from a distance. The old steeple was 342 French feet in height, and the new one 378.

The exterior is decorated with a great number of statues and bas-reliefs, interesting memorials of the state of art in the eleventh and twelfth centuries: they are exceedingly well executed, so much so as to distinguish them from most of the works of that time. The same remark will apply to all the architectural ornaments of the building.

The south door is approached by a vast porch, of admirable style and construction; traces of painting and gilding still remain on the figures of this magnificent facade.

The north door is in a severer style. "This," says M. Jolimont, "is the richest in its details. The porch or peristyle is raised upon seven steps, and presents three grand arcades, which are surmounted by gables corresponding with the three entrances below, and sustained by piers and columns, which, as well as the vaulted roofs, are suitably adorned with statues and bas-reliefs."

The great statues fixed to the columns represent the patriarchs and the prophets of the Old Testament, whose names are written in Gothic character on the consoles which support them, and princes and persons of celebrity, among whom are Pierre de Maulevec, duke of Brittany, and Alice his wife. The vaulted roofs of this peristyle are also richly adorned with groups of figures, representing scriptural scenes.

Above the porch is seen the upper part of the doorway, flanked by two small octagonal turrets, as well as by two large square towers, with flat roofs, and terminated by a gable, adorned with a figure of the Virgin. The central part above the doorway is entirely filled by a window, divided into five compartments, and surmounted by a beautiful rose of regular form.

Two grotesque figures are sculptured on two buttresses on the south side of the old tower, one of which represents a sow spinning, and the other an ass playing on the harp.

The inside of this building is no less beautiful and striking than its exterior. The subdued light which penetrates through the magnificent windows, produces on the mind of the spectator an almost magical effect.

The impressions produced by this temple are heightened in effect by the recollection of the memorable events of which it has been the scene. After the battle of Mens en Puelle, won by the Flemings on the 18th August, Philippe-le-Bel here offered to the Virgin the armour which he wore in the conflict. Philip of Valois came here to render thanks to the mother of our Saviour for the victory of Cassel, the 23rd of August, 1328. And in this church the vanquisher of the League bowed his victorious brow.

This edifice is 396 French feet in length, 103 in breadth, and 106 feet in height to the roof. The windows of the nave, the transepts, and the chapels are adorned with figures of holy men, and a great number of subjects from the Bible, as well as with pictures representing the corporations of the arts and sciences, which contributed by their doctrines or the labour of their hands to the construction of the splendid edifice.

In the circular parts of the windows are represented the kings, dukes, and other persons of note who were benefactors to the edifice:—their shields are emblazoned, and they are mounted on richly caparisoned horses.

The screen of the choir is a very remarkable work; on it the principal events in the life of our Saviour and the Virgin Mary are repre-

sented in bas-relief, and the whole is framed in and surmounted by the most elegant ornaments.

The lobby, constructed before the choir in 1100, was destroyed in 1772, at which time some new embellishments were added to the building, which were unfortunately marked by the bad taste of that period, contrasting disadvantageously with the other parts of the edifice.

The underground vaults of this church are very extensive: and in that part of them situated under the choir are thirteen chapels, one of which is dedicated to the Virgin.

On the 4th of June, 1836, a fire broke out in this fine cathedral, which destroyed the whole of the roofs, the wood-work of the steeples, and other parts of the building. The damage was estimated at about 40,000l.—From the *Architect, Engineer, and Surveyor*.

NEW BUILDING ACT—MARYLEBONE VESTRY.

A COMMITTEE appointed to investigate the several clauses in this Act met at the Court House on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. Biers in the chair. It was resolved, that several of the clauses in the new Bill interfering with or repealing parts of the local acts of this parish; and also that other parts of the Act, being oppressive and uncalled for, ought to be opposed. That the vestry clerk be directed to write to the county and borough members, to receive a deputation from this committee upon the objectionable clauses in the Bill, and that they be requested to oppose the same in Parliament.

LEEDS NEW PRISON.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARCHITECTS.

DESIGNS are required comprising a complete set of plans, sections, elevations, and explanatory drawings, accompanied by a general specification of the manner of executing the works, sufficient for contracting for the same, and an estimate of the cost in detail.

The principle on which the prison is to be constructed being that of the Model Prison at Pentonville, it is strongly recommended that any one who gives designs for it should have seen and examined that prison.

The plans, specifications, and estimates given in are to be in accordance with the Model plans, descriptions, and schedules furnished by government.

The number of cells is to be kept the same as in the government plan, but the form of the ground selected for the site requires an alteration to be made in the basement story, so as to place it on the reverse side of the building, and such other alterations may be made in the interior arrangements as will not interfere with the principle upon which it is to be constructed.

All exterior walls are to be built of Bramley Fall or other similar stone.

In forming his plan, the architect must keep in view that the cost of the buildings, with provisions for warming and ventilation, and including the prison walls, has to be covered by a sum of about 30,000l., and the Council are anxious to bring it as much within that sum as can be done consistently with solidity of construction, and an appropriate but plain exterior.

The proposed site is indicated on the plan of the ground, but architects may select the precise position which they think most suitable, within the ten acres proposed to be purchased.

All drawings are required to be made to a scale of $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch to the foot, and the elevations to be tinted in Sepia only.

A premium of 150l. will be given for the best set of plans, and 75l. for the second best.

All plans, for which a premium is awarded, will be held as the property of the Council, but the Council will not bind themselves to employ the person whose plans obtain either the first or second prize.

The designs are to be sent with a private mark, accompanied by a sealed letter indorsed with the same mark, and containing the name of the persons who send them, to the Town Clerk's Office, before the 21st of June next.

By Order,
EDWIN EDDISON, Town Clerk.
Town Clerk's Office,
58, Albion-street, Leeds,
18th April, 1843.